

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of organizing security inquiries and potential security purchases utilizing a computer with a display comprising:

entering into the computer inquiry information about securities desired for purchase;

5 entering into the computer potential purchase information about available securities;

entering into the computer a plurality of algorithms for matching the inquiry information with the purchase information;

selecting one of the algorithms;

10 matching by means of the selected one algorithm the inquiry information with the purchase information; and

reporting the results of the matching by means of the computer.

2. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said inquiry information comprises a security par dollar amount for each of at least some of said securities desired for purchase, wherein said purchase information comprises a security dollar amount for each of at least some of said available securities and wherein said selected one algorithm attempts to match said security dollar amounts with said security par dollar amounts.

3. A method, as claimed in claim 2, wherein said selected one algorithm attempts to match each of said security dollar amounts in turn with said security par dollar amounts.

4. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said inquiry information comprises a desired range of maturity times of at least some of said securities desired for purchase, wherein said purchase information comprises a maturity time for at least some of said available securities and wherein said selected one algorithm attempts to match said range of maturity times of said securities desired for purchase with said maturity time for said available securities.

5. A method, as claimed in claim 4, wherein said selected one algorithm attempts to match inquiry information with a smaller range of maturity times before attempting to match inquiry information with a larger range of maturity times.

6. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said inquiry information is arranged in order and wherein said selected one algorithm matches attempts to match said purchase information with said inquiry information according to said order.

7. A method, as claimed in claim 6, wherein said order is the order in which said inquiry information was entered into said computer.

8. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said entering inquiry information comprises entering a plurality of inquiries, each inquiry being limited to securities with a single issuer name.

9. A method, as claimed in claim 8, wherein said inquiries comprise an inquiry number, a state associated with said securities desired for purchase, and an account identifier.

10. A method, as claimed in claim 9, wherein said inquiries further comprise a quantity of said securities desired for purchase, a price of said securities desired for purchase and a range of maturity times for said securities desired for purchase.

11. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said entering purchase information comprises entering a plurality entries about said available securities, at least some of said entries comprising a name of an issuer of the available security associated with the entry.

12. A method, as claimed in claim 11, wherein each said entry further comprises a state associated with the available security associated with the entry, the par dollar amount of the security associated with the entry, and the maturity time of the security associated with the entry.

13. A method, as claimed in claim 12, wherein said entry further comprises a CUSIP for said security associated with said entry.

14. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reporting comprises displaying said results on said computer display.

15. A method, as claimed in claim 1, and further comprising finalizing a trade of at least one of said available securities.

16. A method, as claimed in claim 15, wherein said finalizing comprises entering a CUSIP and a broker or dealer identification.

17. A method, as claimed in claim 15, wherein said finalizing comprises checking for similar or matching issues for previous security purchases for said inquiry information.

18. A method, as claimed in claim 15, wherein said reporting further comprises listing said available securities for which trade was finalized.

19. A method, as claimed in claim 15, wherein said reporting comprises listing said inquiry information not subject to said finalizing.

20. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said available securities are issued by an issuer and wherein said reporting further comprises listing approved issuers.

21. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said entering potential purchase information comprises:

entering potential purchase parameters;

searching a data base for security information corresponding to said

5 parameters; and

reporting the results of said searching.

22. A method, as claimed in claim 21, wherein said database is located remotely from said computer and wherein said searching comprises transmitting data via the Internet.

23. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said entering potential purchase information comprises:

selecting one of said available securities; and

reporting information about said selected security from a database.

24. A method, as claimed in claim 23, wherein said database is located remotely from said computer and wherein said reporting comprises transmitting data via the Internet.

25. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said entering inquiry information comprises:

receiving said inquiry information from a data base; and
reporting said received inquiry information.

26. A method, as claimed in claim 25, wherein said database is located remotely from said computer and wherein said reporting comprises transmitting data via the Internet.

27. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said entering potential purchase information comprises:

receiving said potential purchase information from a data base; and
reporting said received potential purchase information.

28. A method, as claimed in claim 27, wherein said database is located remotely from said computer and wherein said reporting comprises transmitting data via the Internet.

29. Apparatus for organizing security inquiries and potential security purchases comprising:

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an output device arranged to display information;
a memory; and
a computer connected to:
store inquiry information about securities desired for purchase;
store potential purchase information about available securities;
store a plurality of algorithms for matching the inquiry information with the purchase information;
10 execute one of the algorithms;
match by means of the selected one algorithm the inquiry information with the purchase information; and
report the results of the matching on the output device.

30. Apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein said inquiry information comprises a security per dollar amount for each of at least some of said securities desired for purchase, wherein said purchase information comprises a security dollar amount for each of at least some of said available securities and wherein said

5 selected one algorithm attempts to match said security dollar amounts with said security par dollar amounts.

31. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 30, wherein said selected one algorithm attempts to match each of said security dollar amounts in turn with said security par dollar amounts.

32. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 29, wherein said inquiry information comprises a desired range of maturity times of at least some of said securities desired for purchase, wherein said purchase information comprises a maturity time for at least some of said available securities and wherein said selected one algorithm attempts to match said range of maturity times of said securities desired for purchase with said maturity time for said available securities.

33. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 32, wherein said selected one algorithm attempts to match inquiry information with a smaller range of maturity times before attempting to match inquiry information with a larger range of maturity times.

34. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 29, wherein said inquiry information is arranged in order and wherein said selected one algorithm matches attempts to match said purchase information with said inquiry information according to said order.

35. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 34, wherein said order is the order in which said inquiry information was entered into said computer.

36. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 29, wherein said inquiry information comprises a plurality of inquiries, each inquiry being limited to securities with a single issuer name.

37. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 36, wherein said inquiries comprise an inquiry number, a state associated with said securities desired for purchase, and an account identifier.

38. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 37, wherein said inquiries further comprise a quantity of said securities desired for purchase, a price of said securities desired for purchase and a range of maturity times for said securities desired for purchase.

39. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 29, wherein said purchase information comprises a plurality entries about said available securities, at least some of said entries comprising a name of an issuer of the available security associated with the entry.

40. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 39, wherein each said entries further comprises a state associated with the available security associated with the entry, the par dollar amount of the security associated with the entry, and the maturity time of the security associated with the entry.

41. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 40, wherein each of said entries further comprises a CUSIP for said security associated with said entry.

42. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 29, wherein said output device comprises a computer display.

43. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 29, wherein said computer is further arranged to finalize a trade of at least one of said available securities.

44. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 43, wherein said computer finalizes the trade in part by storing a CUSIP and a broker or dealer identification.

45. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 43, wherein said computer finalizes the trade in part by checking for similar or matching issues for previous security purchases for said inquiry information.

46. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 43, wherein said computer is further arranged to list said available securities for which the trade was finalized.

47. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 43, wherein said computer is further arranged to list said inquiry information that was not finalized.

48. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 29, wherein said available securities are issued by an issuer and wherein said computer is arranged to list approved issuers.

49. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 29, and further comprising a second computer storing a database, wherein said potential purchase information comprises potential purchase parameters and wherein said computer searches the data base for security information corresponding to said parameters and reports the results of said searching on said output device.

50. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 49, wherein said database is second computer is located remotely from said computer and wherein said second computer transmits data to said computer via the Internet.

51. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 29, and further comprising a second computer storing a database, wherein said potential purchase information comprises one of said available securities and wherein said computer reports information about said selected security from said database.

52. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 51, wherein said second computer is located remotely from said computer and wherein said second computer transmits data to said computer via the Internet.

53. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 29, and further comprising a second computer storing a database, wherein said computer receives inquiry information from a data base and reports said inquiry information on said output device.

54. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 53, wherein said second computer is located remotely from said computer and wherein said second computer transmits data to said computer via the Internet.

55. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 29, and further comprising a second computer storing a database, wherein said computer receives said potential purchase information from said database and reports said received potential purchase information on said output device.

56. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 55, wherein said second computer is located remotely from said computer and wherein said second computer transmits data to said computer via the Internet.